

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /081 W
-----001456 261507Z /41

R 261220Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1519
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, TC
SUBJECT: UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED VISITS SAUDI ARABIA

1. UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, WITH STOPS IN DHAHRAN AND RIYADH, ON MARCH 24 AND 25. HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING UAE RULER INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER AHMAD KHALIFA SUWEIDI, INTERIOR MINISTER SHEIKH MOBARAK BIN MOHAMMAD, RULER OF 2 FUJEIRAH SHEIKH HAMAD BIN MOHAMMAD AL-SHARQI, AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES DR. MANA OTEIBA.

2. DESPITE PROMINENT COVERAGE GIBEN THIS VISIT, PRESS AND RADIO STORIES WERE AS USUAL UNINFORMATIVE. UAE AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA AL-RUMAIH WZS QUATED AS SAYING THAT TALKS WERE SUCCESSFUL AND THAT VIEWS WERE IDENTICAL ON ALL ISSUIS DISCUSSED.

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3. IN STATEMENT TO SAUDI NEWS AGENCY FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS, SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE AAUD AL-FAISAL SAID THAT THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED ON NECESSITY OF EARLY ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND ON THE NECESSITY OF WORKING TO RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY AND UNNITY. PRINCE SAUD ADDED THAT TALKS ALSO DEALT WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND GULF AFFAIRS.

4. COMMENT: THE PERSIAN GULF IS NO LONGER A BACKWATER FOR THE SAUDIS. IN ADDITION TO VISIT OF SHEIKH ZAYED AND HIS SENIOR MINISTERS, SAUDI ARABIA HAS RECEIVED VISITS FROM RULERS OF BAHRAIN AND KUWAIT IN LAST TWO WEEKS. SAUDI ARABIA IS CLEARLY NOW PLACING INCREASING IMPORTANCE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS GULF NEIGHBORS AND IN THE FUTURE CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN GULF AFFAIRS.

4. FOR ABU DHABI: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHY SHEIKH HAMAD CAME ON THIS TRIP. WAS THIS A MARK OF FAVOR FROM SHEIKH ZAYID OR IS HE TRYING TO GIVE SAUDIS LIVING EXAMPLE OF PROGRESS OF INTER-EMIRATE INTEGRATION? WHEN DID MANA OTEIBA RECEIVE HIS DOCTORATE?
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
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